

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 IO-12 SR-02

ORM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03 INRE-00

/157 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ VN: RGRICHMOND: RHWENZEL: JCM

3/13/73 EXT. 29402

APPROVED BY EA: AWHUMMEL

EA/ VN: LBASKEW

EUR/ WE: CKJOHNSON (DRAFT)

AID/ SA/ RD: KRABIN (DRAFT)

INR/ REA: DKENNEY (SUBS.)

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P 132354 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046435

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IT VN VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE

REF: ROME 1831

1. THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY NO SIMPLE AND REASONABLE WAY TO QUANTIFY WITH ANY ACCURACY THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND MATERIAL DESTRUCTION WHICH HAS OCCURRED THROUGHOUT VIETNAM IN ALMOST THREE DECADES OF WAR.

2. WHILE IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO ARRIVE AT SOME QUANTIFICATION OF MATERIAL DAMAGE ALONE, THIS WOULD REQUIRE LENGTHY ANALYSIS, AND WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TRY TO PROVIDE A QUICK FIX. CERTAINLY DESTRUCTION IN THE NORTH HAS BEEN VERY CONSIDERABLE AS A RESULT OF AIR
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OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, THIS MIGHT WELL BE BALANCED BY MATERIAL DAMAGE IN THE SOUTH WHERE ALL THE GROUND OPERATIONS (WITH AIR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT) HAVE TAKEN PLACE, AND OVER A MUCH LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

3. IT IS SIMILARLY DIFFICULT TO COMPARE HUMAN SUFFERING IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD VENTURE AN ESTIMATE THAT THE SOUTH -- I. E. THE LOCUS OF GROUND OPERATIONS -- HAS PROBABLY SUFFERED MOST IN THIS REGARD. THE GENERATION OF ONE- AND- A- HALF MILLION NEW REFUGEES SINCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EASTER INVASION IN 1972 IS INDICATIVE OF THIS SUFFERING. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinjw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE046435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICHMOND: RHWENZEL: JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730331/aaaahxhj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EAP
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ROME 1831
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971210
Subject: VIETNAM RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, IT, n/a
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005